



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,807	09/17/2003	Nagendran A/L C. Nadarajah	16508-002001 / PK/P996/CS	3463
26161	7590	03/13/2006	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			HEWITT, JAMES M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/664,807	NADARAJAH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James M. Hewitt	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/17/03, 10/23/03, 3/12/04 and 12/15/05.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 14-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II (claims 14-19) in the reply filed on 12/15/05 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-13 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12/15/05.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: '27', '28' and '29'. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be

labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because: in line 1, as the phrase "The invention relates to" can be implied, it should be deleted; it should describe the claimed invention . Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The title should describe the claimed invention.

The appropriate section headings (i.e. "Background of the Invention", Summary of the Invention", etc.) should be inserted throughout the specification.

On page 8, line 14, shouldn't "two pairs" be "a pair"?

Numeral '28' has been used to reference both the longitudinal seal and spaced-apart apertures.

Appropriate correction is required.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: a wing with an aperture as recited in lines 6 and 8 of claim

14 does not find proper antecedent basis in the specification; at least one metallic clip as recited in line 2 of claim 18 does not find proper antecedent basis in the specification.

Claim Objections

Claims 14-19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 14, line 1, “terminal end” should be “terminal ends”.

In claim 14, line 1; “half oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 14, line 2, “comprising of” should be replaced with “comprising:”.

In claim 14, line 4, “half oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 14, line 5, “(340” should be “(34)”.

In claim 14, line 6, “thereon” should be deleted for clarity.

In claim 14, line 8, “thereon” should be deleted for clarity.

In claim 14, line 8, the phrase “an aperture semi-circular recess (54)” is unclear.

Should “and a” be inserted before “semi-circular recess”?

In claim 14, line 9, should “the semi-circular lip” be “a respective semi-circular lip”?

In claim 14, line 10, it is unclear as to which semi-circular recess “the semi-circular recess (54)” references. Both bodies into one recess?

In claim 14, line 10, should “the” precede “two flange bodies”?

In claim 14, line 11, it is unclear as to which terminator body “the terminator body (45)” references.

In claim 14, line 12, it is unclear as to which flange body “the flange body (24)” references.

In claim 14, line 12, it is unclear as to how the nuts and bolts can be said to be introduced between the bores (36, 48).

In claim 14, line 13, it is unclear as to which flange body “the flange body” references.

In claim 14, line 13, it is unclear as to which terminator body “terminator body” references.

In claim 15, line 1, “the terminal end” should be “terminal ends”.

In claim 15, line 1, “half oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 15, line 2, “oversized” should be deleted for clarity.

In claim 15, lines 2-3, the phrase “each of the two oversized sleeves includes on each side a flange (24) with serrated strip (26)” should be replaced with “each flange body (24) includes a serrated strip (26)”.

In claim 16, line 1, “the” should be deleted.

In claim 16, line 1, “half oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 17, line 1, “the” should be deleted.

In claim 17, line 1, “half oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 17, line 2, the recited graphite strip should be related to the graphite bodies recited in claim 14.

In claim 17, line 2, “introduceable” is misspelled.

In claim 17, line 2, it is unclear as to which semi-circular recess “the semi-circular recess (54)” references.

In claim 18, line 1, “the” should be deleted.

In claim 18, line 1, “half oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 19, line 1, “the terminal end” should be “terminal ends”.

In claim 19, line 1, “half-oversized sleeves” should be “half sleeves” for clarity.

In claim 19, line 2, trademarks should not be used in claims and acronyms should be written out.

In claim 19, lines 2-3, “flanges” should be “flange bodies”.

In claim 19, line 3, should “the” precede “nuts and bolts”?

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 14-19 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(i), which states “Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear whether the half sleeves are being claimed. The claims are drawn to a means to seal the ends of the sleeves, yet, in claim 14, the sleeves are said to be integral with the flange bodies. And in claim 15, the sleeves are positively claimed.

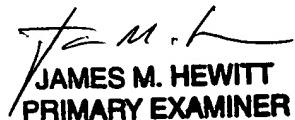
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER